

OMNI

OCTOBER 1980

ESP AND THE CIA

Psychic spies? Cabals of clairvoyants employed to locate enemy missiles via the astral plane? It seems our own Central Intelligence Agency has pondered — and possibly undertaken — such a scheme.

These strange CIA musings were recently exposed by declassified documents obtained under the Freedom of Information Act by the American Citizens for Honesty in Government, a Washington-based group sponsored by the Church of Scientology.

A twenty-year CIA mind-control operation that experimented with everything from hypnosis and behavior modification to psychoactive drugs and electroshock has been well documented. Less noticed among the esoterica included in the so-called Project Bluebird (later renamed Project Artichoke, still later MKULTRA) was another possible secret weapon: extrasensory perception.

Here is the agency's dream, spelled out in an April 1952 memorandum: "If a number of individuals could be found in the U.S. who have a very high ESP capacity, these talented individuals could be assigned to intelligence problems. Such a problem as whether or not the [deleted] had a submarine pen could be attacked by ESP."

Two "promising" studies, one of "personality correlates of ESP," the other of "ESP in animals," are mentioned in a revealing January

1952 document. This paper's author was evidently so confident of the CIA's intention to fund ESP research that he discusses fine points of staffing and salary estimates.

But after the early Fifties CIA documents are mum about ESP and PK (psychokinesis). Perhaps the CIA dropped the idea. But perhaps it actually implemented an ESP cryptocracy, and perhaps the documents detailing it are classified.

The latter possibility is raised (along with a few eyebrows) by this January



Is the CIA using crystal balls?



Bicycle commuters in New York City: About 4 million Americans live close enough to work (9.7 kilometers) to bike it daily.

1952 statement: "If we are to undertake to push this research as far and as fast as we can... it would be necessary to be exceedingly careful about its thorough cloaking of the undertaking."

The CIA has declined comment — Judith Hooper

BIKE FEVER

The U.S. government recently acknowledged what the rest of the world has known all along: Bicycles can be an important part of a transportation system.

In an official document, "Bicycle Transportation for

save 3.0 billion kilowatts of oil per year — enough to heat a million homes and cut annual imported oil costs by \$800 million.

And it won't even take much hardship, the government says: The United States already has 100 million bikes — about the same number as cars. Per capita, the American public has twice as many bicycles as the people of Great Britain, France, and Italy, and only somewhat less than the Scandinavians.

However, in the United States only 1 percent of commuters use bicycles. Yet about 4 million live close enough to work (9.7 kilometers) to bike it daily, even after one accounts for the physically disabled and subtracts for inclement weather.

Yes, bicycles are a real form of transportation, says Dilli Wilkinson, of the Transportation Department. That's what Frenchman Pierre Michaux said when he invented the bicycle in 1861. The only mistakes that early bicycle makers committed were paving the first roads for the bike's pneumatic tires and then building the first cars as a sideline. — S.D.

STAT